

PML group boycotts district council polls

By Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI, Dec 31: Annoyed group of Pakistan Muslim League led by Punjab law minister Mohammad Basharat Raja, on Thursday boycotted the elections of 18 special seats of District Council Rawalpindi (DCR) and all candidates of opponent group led by Chaudhry Mohammad Afzal won all special seats.

Of total 104 seats, only 54 councillors of Chaudhry Afzal group participated the polls and cast votes for the elections of 10 women, six farmer and two workers seats.

Heavy contingents of police along with senior officials of district administration and police were deployed in the vicinity of District Court Rawalpindi. Some 20 reserves police forces were called out in the DCR to avoid any untoward incident during the elections of special seats.

Deputy commissioner, Rawalpindi, Shumail Ahmed Khawaja performed his duties as presiding officers while assistant commissioner Tehsil Kahuta and Tehsil Kotli Sattian offered their duties as assistant presiding officers during the polls.

Some 26 candidates participated in the contest of 10 women seats and those who elected were: Rana Begum (54 votes), Riffat Sultana (54), Zahida Sultana (54), Zahida Ali (54), Zulaikhan Bibi (54), Tahira Shaukat (53), Masooda Naqshbandi (54), Mafeez Akhtar (54), Nisar Bibi (54) and Nusrat Amir (54).

Similarly, 17 candidates participated the elections of six farmer seats. They were: Ahmed Saeed Bhatti, Amir Afzal Qureshi, Tassadaq Hussain Raja, Sajjad

Ahmed Abbasi, Shaukat Iqbal Janjua, Malik Shaukat Ali Awan, Raja Azmat Jehangir Satti, Gul Zareen Abbasi, Chaudhry Mohammad Aslam, Chaudhry Mohammad Akram, Mohammad Zubair, Mohammad Usman Abbasi, Haji Mohammad Fazil, Masood Ahmed Abbasi, Masood Ahmed Khokhar, Malik Manzoor Elahi and Raja Munir Ahmed. But those who elected were: Tassadaq Hussain Raja (54 votes), Shaukat Iqbal Janjua (54), Raja Azmat Jehangir Satti (52), Chaudhry Mohammad Aslam (54), Mohammad Zubair (54) and Mohammad Usman Abbasi (37).

Six candidates included Chaudhry Iftikhar Hussain, Haji Allah Ditta Khan, Syed Shahid Hussain Shah, Mirza Tariq Mehmood, Chaudhry Ali Mohammad and Mohammad Ramzan contested the election of two workers seats out of which Mirza Tariq Mehmood and Chaudhry Ali Mohammad were elected with 54 votes each.

Later, talking to the newsmen candidate of chairman ZCR and a leader of winning group, Chaudhry Afzal said that he would obey party decision regarding the election of chairman DCR.

Responding to a question about four other candidates of chairman DCR belonging to his group, he said that all other candidates of his group would withdraw in his favour.

To a question, he accused the opponent group of creating disturbance and trouble for the party as well as the people. He said that the annoyed group had already boycotted the elections of DCR in 1987 and 1991.